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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – WEST

MONTHLY REPORT
DECEMBER 2014



The Band Abad CDC Completed 47% Work On A 45-ML Flood Protection Wall Construction Project In Pashtun Zarghun District. Once Completed, The Flood Protection Wall Will Save 300 Acres Of Farmland From Being Flooded.

JANUARY 2015

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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA) – WEST

MONTHLY REPORT DECEMBER 2014

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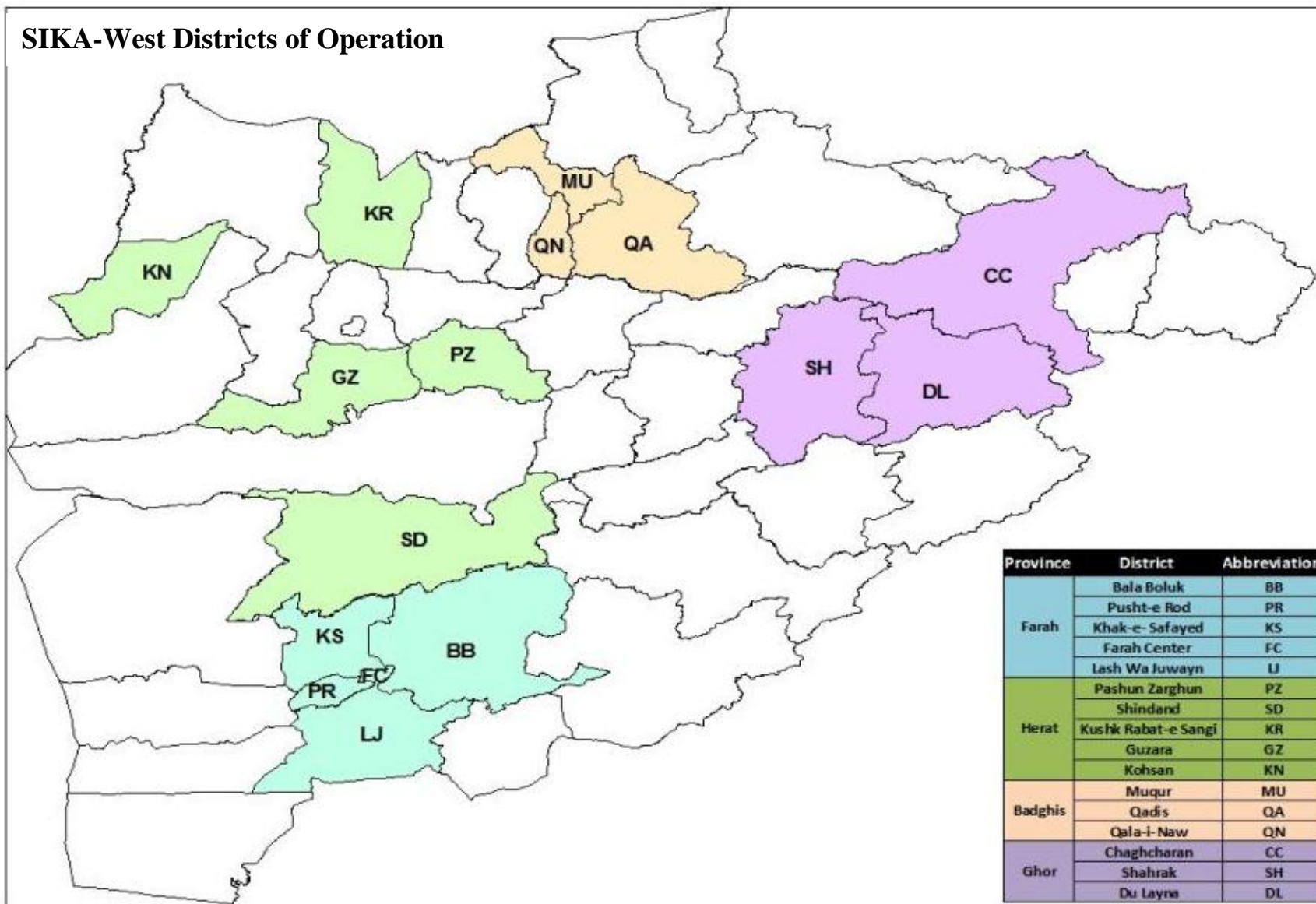
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acronyms	iii
Introduction.....	1
Summary of Achievements.....	1
Stabilization Programming	1
Communications Programming	2
Community development Programming.....	4
Governance Programming	5
Gender Mainstreaming Unit	6
Lessons Learned.....	9
Monitoring and Evaluation.....	9
Challenges.....	10
Deliverables	10

ACRONYMS

AECOM	Architecture Engineering Consulting Operation Maintenance
CCI	Community Cohesion Initiative
CDC	Community Development Councils
COP	Chief of Party
CPOD	Communications & Public Outreach Department
DAIL	Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
DDA	District Development Assembly
DDP	District Development Portfolio
DE	District Entities
DG	District Governor
DoLSA	Department of Labor and Social Affairs
DoWA	Department of Women's Affairs
DPP	District Project Portfolio
DRRD	Directorate of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
DSM	District Stability Matrix
DST	District Support Team
DSW	District Social Worker
GPS	Global Positioning System
GIRoA	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
ICMA	International City/Country Management Association
IDLG	Independent Directorate of Local Governance
IR	Intermediate Result
KSW	Komite Sobate Woleswali
MISTI	Measuring Impacts of Stabilization Intervention
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
OSC	Overseas Strategic Consulting
PST	Provincial Support Team
SAM	Stability Analysis Mechanism
SIKA	Stability in Key Areas
SPC	Service Providers Catalog
TCRC	Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee
CRC	Conflict Resolution Committee
TOT	Training of Trainers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

SIKA-West Districts of Operation



INTRODUCTION

Program Profile: The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) awarded AECOM International Development the Stability in Key Areas (SIKA) –West program, which began on January 29, 2012 and is scheduled to end on August 31st, 2015. Led by the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Development (MRRD) and the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG), the SIKA-West program is designed to promote stability in key areas by assisting provincial authorities and district-level government entities to improve governance programming and increase the provision of priority basic services; with the intended result of increasing citizen confidence in and support for, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA). During the initial 26-month Base Period, the SIKA-West program employed a phased provincial roll-out within the four provinces of Farah, Badghis, Herat, and Ghor, incorporating 10 target districts. In February 2014, the SIKA-West program entered its 18-month Option Period and extended its engagement to an additional 6 districts within these provinces, bringing the current total to 16.

Area of Operation: SIKA-West is active in the following provinces and districts:

- Farah Province: Farah Center, Bala Boluk, Pusht-e Rod, Khak-e-Safayd, and Lash Wa Juwayn Districts
- Herat Province: Pashtun Zarghun, Shindand, Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, Guzara, and Kohsan Districts
- Badghis Province: Qadis, Muqur, and Qala-i-Naw Districts
- Ghor Province: Chaghcharan, Shahrak, and Du Layna Districts

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

This report summarizes MRRD/IDLG SIKA-West program activities undertaken across all program departments during the month of December 2014. The report provides a programmatic overview and breakdown of activities by program focus, and outcome, detailing successes, challenges, and lessons learned. The report also highlights the leading role of the MRRD and IDLG partners with respect to both district and provincial programming.

STABILIZATION PROGRAMMING

During this reporting period, 11 GIROA-led Komite Sobate Wolesswali (KSW) meetings were held. The purpose of the KSWs is to provide a forum for district residents and sub-national government entities to discuss current problems and grievances affecting residents within the districts and where government-led actions can address and mitigate these grievances. Participants in these KSWs included Provincial & District Governors & Line Departments representatives (91 males, 11 females), District Development Assemblies (DDAs) (114 males, 36 females), MRRD District Social Workers (DSWs) (five males), and community elders (152 males, 40 females).

In December, as part of the transition, provision of lunches was removed at the KSW meetings to ensure sustainability of the KSWs after the SIKA-West program ends. This approach was applied in Chaghcharan, Qala-i-Naw, Qadis, Muqur, Guzara, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Lash Wa Juwayn and Farah Center. The respective District Governors successfully organized and led the KSW meetings without provision of lunches. The KSWs' members discussed their community major problems, including insufficient government support to tackle illiteracy, provision of employment opportunities and improved flood protection measures. Both Provincial and District Government leadership acknowledged the role of government in addressing these grievances and approved 45 new projects including roads and schools rehabilitation, irrigation canals construction and provision of school equipment to four schools (Ibn-e Yamin Juwayni, Dehwakil, Khair Abad and Parkha Schools in Lash Wa Juwayn District), utilizing both Fixed Obligation and In-Kind Grants.

An important component of these KSWs was the inclusion of the views and needs of female district residents. In Lash Wa Juwayn, a more conservative district relative to other program districts, a separate KSW for women was conducted. Women discussed about their community problems where local government support was needed, including poor educational facilities in Ibn-e Yamin Juwayni High School, lack of potable water in Naw Abad Village and poor condition of roads in Tapa Gol village. With support from the Gender Mainstreaming Unit, these grievances were shared with the District Government-led KSW and the district government agreed to address these conditions by provision of school equipment, rehabilitation of road and water supply network.

As part of the Stabilization Programming Indicators review and project impact assessment, community gatherings were held to obtain feedback from communities on the effect of SIKA-West's programming to date and the support provided for Provincial and District Government Service Delivery in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, Pashtun Zarghun and Farah Center. Farmers in Shor Abad village highlighted that the rehabilitated road enabled them to transport their agricultural produce to the Farah Provincial markets timely. Women in Rabat Sangi Sharqi village noted that the constructed flood protection wall safeguards the Kushk-e Rabat Sangi District Center Girls' High School from being flooded and now 1,247 students have a safer educational environment. And residents in Abgarmi village in Pashtun Zarghun District noted improvement in their transportation network and highlighted that they can now travel to the District Center and use the available government services including but limited to health facilities, National Identification Registration, Agriculture and Extension Services and etc. *"Now that the road is rehabilitated, we can travel to the District Center and use the available government services including health facilities,"* a resident from Abgarmi village.

District Government-led Tribal Conflict Resolution Committees (TCRCs) identified and addressed three conflicts including a water dispute between two farmers in Bala Boluk, an inheritance dispute between two brothers in Muqur and a case of arson between two villagers in Qadis District. The TCRCs, with support of the respective District Governors and community elders, organized several mediation and negotiation sessions with the conflicting parties which resulted in all the mentioned conflicts being addressed.

COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMMING

During the month, district entities completed 17 out of 37 of the public outreach activities outlined in the communications plans, such as producing a series of factsheets, conducting coordination meetings, and disseminating awareness raising messages. Below are the highlights of the activities:

- In-line with the IDLG District Government Communications Plan, the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Government Office organized a Market Day on December 1 where 100 farmers connected with six Agricultural Service Providers. The Service Providers shared their available services and exchanged contacts with farmers for business. The Babai Saffron Company contracted 20 farmers to provide saffron bulbs, and the Holland Veterinarian Committee pledged to provide vaccinations to livestock.
- With the support of the Communications & Public Outreach Department, the Farah DRRD Service Providers Committee distributed 40 Service Providers Catalogues (SPCs) and 800 SPC cards to CDCs in Farah Center. The CDCs will use the SPC to find potential third party donors to address their community major problems.
- With technical support of the Communications & Public Outreach Department, the Badghis Provincial Government Chief of Staff, Mr. Sharafudin Majidi, participated in a televised program at the Badghis



Farmers in Kushk Rabat-E Sangi communicating with the Agricultural Service Providers and exchanging contacts for business at Market Day on December

Television of Afghanistan on December 6. The Chief of Staff spoke about government achievements and available services including free health and education services across all Badghis Province. He highlighted that there are 427 schools that provide free education for 130,000 students.

- As a result of the Pusht-e Rod District Governor support and lobbying efforts, seven drug addicts are receiving treatment in the Farah Drug Rehabilitation Clinic. “I am very happy that these youth will be rehabilitated and can support their families,” said Mr. Ghawsuddin, the DG. The Pusht-e Rod DG will be working with the Farah Department of Labors and Social Affairs (DOLSA) to provide job opportunities for these seven youths upon completion of their treatment.
- On December 7, the Kushk Rabat Sangi District Executive Manager (DEM) and the MRRD District Social Worker visited the work progress of a bridge construction project in Khowja Gul Baidak village. The DEM shared the District Government Hotline number with the residents and laborers and asked them to share their concerns with the District Government.
- The Lash Wa Juwayn District Governor, Mr. Samad Yar, commemorated the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, which was attended by 15 people with disabilities. Speeches on roles of disabled people in the community were delivered. The DG pledged to advocate for disabled people’s needs and concerns including provision of job opportunities.
- With support of the Communications & Public Outreach Department, the Chaghcharan Youth Association organized a ‘Peace Running Tournament’ on December 3. More than 30 youths attended the tournament and ran 5 kilometers while carrying Peace and Anti-Poppy cultivation messages. At the end of the tournament, trophies were distributed to the first, second and third-place finishers.
- The Communications & Public Outreach Department conducted a training session on SPC usage to 36 members of Langar Sharif, Zoriha and Boyaha CDCs in Qadis District to improve their capacity to advocate for residents’ concerns and problems. The participants will use the Badghis SPC to find potential third party donors to address their community major problems. At the end of the training, 36 copies of the SPC were distributed to participants.
- With support of the Communications & Public Outreach Department, a group of farmers from Kushk Rabat-e Sangi traveled to Herat and met with the Herat Provincial Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL). The farmers shared their concerns including lack of improved seeds, pistachio sapling and greenhouses. The DAIL pledged to provide improved seeds and pistachio saplings in the coming year.
- The Bala Boluk District Governor, Mr. Sayed Mohammad, lobbied with the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) in Farah Province to provide humanitarian assistance to casualties of the recent fight between Afghan Security Forces and anti-government elements in Ganj Abad village in Bala Boluk District. The ICRC pledged to investigate this case and provide assistance to eligible people.



The Kushk Rabat Sangi District Executive Manager (DEM) and the MRRD District Social Worker visited the site of a bridge construction project in Khowja Gul Baidak Village. The bridge is expected to improve access to the District Center for 1000 families.



The Chaghcharan Youth Association organized a ‘Peace Running Tournament.’ More than 30 youths attended the tournament and ran 5-KM while carrying Peace and Anti-Poppy Cultivation messages.

- On December 20, in-line with the IDLG District Government Communications Plan, the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Executive Manager (DEM), Mr. Abdullah Nasrat, visited the Kushk-e Rabat Sangi Bazar and directly communicated with shopkeepers to listen to their concerns. Residents requested that the DEM to rehabilitate the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi main road, which is in poor condition. The DEM pledged to share this request with the District Governor for further action.
- As part of the efforts to improve communication between the government and residents, the Communications & Public Outreach Department provided Media Relations training to eight Government staff in Lash Wa Juwayn District on December 17. By the end of the training, the participants learned how to conduct interviews and write press releases.
- The Communications & Public Outreach Department provided 'Effective Communications' training to 14 Qala-i-Now Government staff on December 16th. The training aimed to improve the ability of the government staff to use different forms of media to inform residents about available government services.
- On December 22, the Kohsan District Executive Manager, Mr. Nezamudin Rahmani, visited the work progress of a 2-KM road rehabilitation project in Islam Qala Shamali village. The DEM was pleased with the work quality and asked the implementing CDC and community residents to pay attention to the project maintenance. Once completed, the rehabilitated road improves access for 450 families to the District Center.
- In-line with the IDLG District Government Communications Plan, the Lash Wa Juwayn District Executive Manager organized a monthly coordination meeting with line-departments on December 23. Each line-department shared their activities and achievements, including the collection of taxes worth 100,000 AFN from shopkeepers by the Revenue Department. To address the lack of medicine in Lash Wa Juwayn Clinics, the Executive Manager will lobby the Provincial Health Department to provide material support.



The Kohsan District Executive Manager visited the work site of a 2-KM Road Rehabilitation Project in Islam Qala Shamali Village. It is expected to improve access to the District Center for 450 families.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING

To date, 408 grants valued at USD\$9,021,735 have been approved across all 16 target Districts (*See charts 1 and 2*). These projects include rehabilitation of irrigation canals, road networks and culverts, schools and boundary walls, flood protection walls, and gabions. They are implemented and managed by CDCs under Fixed Obligation Grant mechanisms and are designed to provide district government led solutions to community identified problems. As of the reporting date, 236 grants projects valued at USD\$4,330,196 have been completed. Currently, CDCs are implementing 149 projects valued at USD\$4,520,557 in the target districts.

Chart 1: Number of grants approved per district as of December 31, 2014

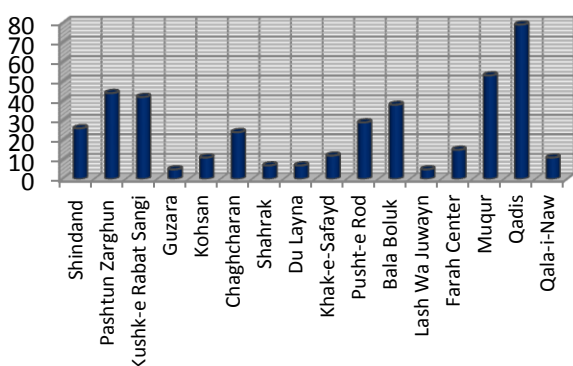
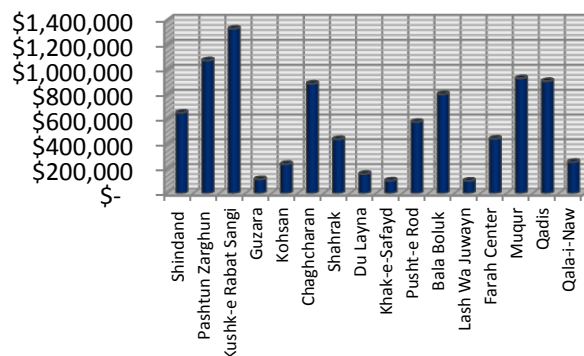


Chart 2: Value of grants approved per district as of December 31, 2014



In collaboration with MRRD and IDLG, the Community Development Department completed feasibility studies for 13 grant funded projects in Farah Center and Guzara. These projects (Roads Rehabilitation, Water Divider and Culverts Construction) are designed to improve communities' access to district centers and protect their farmland, homes and businesses from seasonal flooding.

The MRRD DSW and the Government personnel led the Project Management Training (PMT) for nine CDC grantees in Farah Center and four CDC Grantees in Kohsan District. The DSWs and government personnel covered the Community Mobilization & Development/Procurement Processes sections, while the Community Development Department provided support and covered the remaining material. After successfully completing this PMT, the first round of milestones will be paid to these CDCs.

GOVERNANCE PROGRAMMING

The SIKA-West Governance Department continued mentoring District Government staff in the SIKA-West districts of operation. Mentoring included improving inventory/record keeping, organizational charts, report writing, and computer skills training. Below is a summary of the Governance Department achievements:

- In order to support improvements in District Government Service Delivery, a 'General Administration' Workshop was conducted in Kohsan and Kushk Rabat-e Sangi Districts for 22 government personnel. Subject matter included Administrative Guidelines, Human Resource Management and Performance Management.
- In-line with the IDLG District Governance Training Plan a 'Work Plan Development' Workshop was conducted in Qadis and Muqur Districts for 24 government personnel. Training covered Annual Work Plan, Development, Strategic Planning & Procurement Practices. This workshop is designed to improve the performance of government personnel in their administrative functions.
- With support of the Governance Department, the Ghor Municipality organized a City Cleaning Hashar (Public Work) on December 3. More than 1000 people including the Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor, the Mayor, the government line-departments and community residents attended the event and cleaned Chaghcharan City (approximately 4 square kilometers). "Our town is our home, we are responsible to keep our homes clean," said Mr. Mohammad Aref Qazi Zada, the Ghor Mayor.
- With support of the Governance Department, the Pashtun Zarghun and Kushk Rabat-e Sangi Education Departments developed a guideline to speed up the process of obtaining an official school graduation certificate. The guideline provides detailed information about the steps and required documents for obtaining certificate which will then enable students to apply for higher education institutes.
- In response to recent increase in seasonal diseases, the Governance Department supported the Qadis District Health Department to develop posters on Measles and Diarrhea prevention and treatment. These posters will be hung on the public places including clinics, schools and mosques in remote villages.
- In-line with the IDLG District Governance Training Plan, a training session on 'Afghanistan Procurement Law' was conducted in Bala Boluk District for four government personnel. Topics discussed included the purpose of procurement law, procurement terms and steps of procurement planning.



Government personnel and local residents cleaning Chaghcharan City during the City Cleaning Hashar on December 3rd.

- On December 22, with support of the Governance Department, the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Agriculture Department provided Plant Pest and Diseases Control training to 15 farmers. The Agriculture Manager described techniques for preparing and using pesticides. By the end of the training farmers learned the new methods to fight plant diseases.
- With support of the Governance Department, the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi District Population Registration Department developed a guideline to speed up the process of obtaining a National Identity Card (Tazkira). The guideline provides detailed information about the steps and required documents for obtaining Tazkira. Before developing the guideline, residents did not know what documents are required to receive a Tazkira, causing delays in the process.
- The Muqur District Agriculture Department provided 'Tree Pruning and Pistachio Cultivation' training to 50 farmers on December 29. Improper methods of tree pruning have previously resulted in low yields. By the end of the training, the farmers learned standard methods of pruning for different types of trees and learned the steps and requirement of pistachio cultivation.



The Muqur District Agriculture Department provided 'Tree Pruning And Pistachio Cultivation' training to 50 farmers on December 29th.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING UNIT

The Gender Department is responsible for the integration of gender across all program activities, targeting gender awareness initiatives and training programs, improving women's access to DEs, and creating space for female voices and participation. Below is a summary of the Gender Mainstreaming Unit achievements:

- With support of the Gender Mainstreaming Unit, the Shindand District Government Female Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC) commemorated the International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women. In response to high dowry payments, the CRC will lobby the Provincial Department of Women's Affairs (DOWA) to organize awareness raising campaigns for district residents to have appropriate and reasonable dowry prices.
- With support of the Farah Gender Working Group and DOWA, for the first time 70 women attended a driving course in Farah Province. The GWG and DOWA collaboratively lobbied with the Traffic Department to organize driving training sessions for women. Five out of 70 women took the driving test and successfully passed. The remaining women will take the test in the coming weeks.
- The Ghor and Farah Departments of Women's Affairs (DOWA) Directors independently led the Provincial Gender Working Group meeting on December 25 and 28 respectively. In Ghor the participants discussed the current Scopes of Work and Action Plans for the GWG sub-committees (Cultural & Social, Advocacy and Education). Each Committee identified a range of activities where women's needs and concerns needed to be addressed, including increasing health facilities for women, employment of women in governmental organizations and improvement of women's access to education. The Farah GWG decided to conduct an assessment to identify which organizations lack female staff. Based on these findings, the Farah GWG will develop an action plan to lobby the provincial government.



The Ghor Gender Working Group members discussing the Scopes of Work and Action Plans of their sub-Committees.

- The Guzara Female Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC) addressed a familial conflict between a couple. The husband was a drug addict and could not provide accommodation for his wife and children; therefore, the wife decided to divorce him. The CRC mediated with the conflicting parties and finally the husband's brother agreed to provide accommodation for his brother's family and send the husband to a clinic for treatment.
- The Gender Mainstreaming Unit handed over the Pusht-e Rod and Lash Wa Juwayn Female Komite Sobate Wolesswali (KSW) to the respective District Governors on December 11 and 23. The female KSW provides an avenue for district women to report their grievances and request local government support. The DGs committed to take the lead and support the female KSWs after the SIKA-West program ends. "The Komite Sobate Wolesswali provided the opportunity for women to communicate with their government, share their concerns and advocate for their needs," Ms. Rahela, Lash Wa Juwayn KSW member.
- With support from the Gender Mainstreaming Unit, the Kushk Rabat-e Sangi and Lash Wa Juwayn District Governors will now take the lead and support the District Government sponsored female Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC) in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi and Lash Wa Juwayn Districts. The female CRC provides an avenue for district women to identify and address familial conflicts at the district level. The DGs has committed to support the district CRCs after the SIKA-West program ends.

The below table shows the SIKA-West's progress towards achieving Performance Management Plan (PMP) indicator targets:

Indicator Name and Number	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Target Year 3	DEC 2014 Result	Cumulative Total
S1: Number of sub-national government entities receiving USG assistance to improve their performance	42	110	360	20	688 ¹
S2: Percent of Afghans reporting that their district government is responsive to the needs of local people	NA	TBD	60%	62%	62%
S3: Number of District Entities with USG assistance for citizens to engage their subnational government	NA	233	75	20	740
S4: Number of activities with community contribution	72	201	100	1	236
S5: Number of Afghans Trained (see indicators 2.3, 3.3, 4.4)	NA	5,272	5,000	399	10745
S6: Number of Persons Employed by stabilization program activities	NA	479	1,000	12	5707
S7: Number of person-days of employment created	9,000	11,340	30,000	948	144357
S8: Number of stabilization activities implemented through grants to district entities (see indicator 4.3)	72	201	75	1	236
S9: Number of SOIs against which stabilization activities have been executed	NA	12	7	0	22
S10: Number of stabilization Work Sessions Conducted for district entities (see indicator 1.2)	88	105	130	11	255

¹ The Community Development Councils (CDCs) have been included for this indicator as part of the sub-national government entities receiving USG assistance to improve their performance.

Indicator Name and Number	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Target Year 3	DEC 2014 Result	Cumulative Total
SI1: Number of Districts in which SAM is utilized to develop programs (see indicator 1.2)	7	10	16	10	16
SI2: Number of GIRoA Officials trained in aspects of government administration (See indicators 2.3 and 3.3)	NA	323	100	85	1050
SI3: Number of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources and basic services. (assets, credit, income or employment)	NA	1,525	100	34	2896
SI4: Number of interventions that increased participation of women in district entity activities (KSWs)	27	36	100	2	167
I.1 Number of partnered District governments (and % of total) that show improved understanding of local Sources of Instability.	10	10	16	16	100% 16/16
I. 2 Number of Stabilization work sessions conducted with district entities.	88	100	130	11	255
I.3 Number of Activities included in District Project Portfolios as a result of stabilization workshops	70	240	75	126	624
2.1 Number of District Entities able to access stabilization services provided by GIRoA organizations/line departments	NA	TBD	16	3	395
2.2 Number of SOI mitigating activities that are implemented in collaboration with providers identified in the Service Providers Catalogue	7	10	5	1	15
2.3 Number of people trained on Service Provider Catalog usage	NA	TBD	100	38	545
3.1 Number of people (percentage) reporting improvement in the responsiveness of GIRoA district entities with regards to SOI resolution	NA	TBD	65%	64%	64%
3.2 Number of public outreach and/or public consultation activities conducted by DEs with USG assistance	9	16	24	17	411
3.3 Number of people trained in communications and outreach	300	1,291	500	22	2720
3.4 Number of PA's and DEs with a communication strategy or plan in place.	9	8	15	0	27
4.1 Percentage of people reporting improvement in service delivery by DEs and PAs.	NA	NA	60%	65%	65%
4.2 Number of person days of employment created through SIKA-West interventions.	9,000	46,800	30,000	948	144357
4.3 Number of grant activities completed in support of stabilization goals	72	120	75	1	236
4.4 Number of person-days of training implemented through grants.	280	9,600	3,000	0	104530

LESSONS LEARNED

- Some of the CDCs lacked experience to implement the Gabion Flood Protection Wall projects, especially in terms of gabion box preparation and gabion basket filling. The Community Development Department has provided on the job trainings for these CDCs to assist them prepare and fill gabion boxes based on the projects' specifications. SIKA-West decided to award Gabion Flood Protection Wall projects to CDCs who have implemented similar projects in the past and can provide skilled labourers.
- As a result of the decision to remove provision of lunches at KSW meetings to ensure sustainability of KSWs after the SIKA-West program ends, some District Governors noted reduced attendance of participants compared to previous meetings. Through discussions with the District Governors, it was decided to continue the meetings on smaller scale and invite only key counterparts including Government Personnel, DDA and CDCs.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- The District Government Staff, the DRRD District Social Workers (DSWs), the M&E personnel, and Engineers organized 238 project site visits prior to the approval of the next round of milestone payments for the CDCs in Herat, Badghis, Farah, and Ghor Provinces. These visits uncovered deficiencies that were in need of correction. For example, the Bahador Ha CDC in Pashtun Zarghun was advised to correct plastering of the walls for their high school rehabilitation project, the Mazid CDC in Muqur was advised to not use small stones for foundation of their Flood Protection Wall project, the Kalati Mir Hakim Sofla in Kohsan District was advised to correct the gabion cage weaving of their Flood Protection Wall project, and the Sultan Ha CDC in Qadis was advised to not use rusty wire for their Flood Protection Wall project.
- Monitoring and Evaluation trainings were provided to the Muqur, Qadis, Chaghcharan, Qala-i-Naw, Pusht-e Rod and Kushk Rabat-e Sangi MRRD District Social Workers and DGOs. The trainings focused on Project Site Photography, Report Writing, and Measurement Tools to improve the capacity of government staff to conduct independent project site inspections.
- An M&E/Program Team attended the last MISTI Summit in Kabul on December 10. The MISTI Wave 4 Stability and Impact findings presented at the Summit showed that overall, stabilization projects have resulted in improvements in stability, government capacity and district and provincial government performance.
- The Qala-i-Naw, Bala Boluk, Shindand, Pusht-e Rod, Qadis and Kushk Rabat-e Sangi Government Personnel used the District Government Hotline Numbers and called to 23 implementing CDCs to provide them an update on the progress of their projects. For example; The Head of the Raees Sharaf Bala CDC reported that they have completed 40% of the work but received money only for 20% of the work, the Deh Sorkhak Payeen CDC who are implementing a flood protection wall construction project reported that they were working based on the project specifications and the Abu Hanifa CDC who are implementing a flood protection wall project complained about the delay of their second milestone payment. The respective District Governors shared the reported complaints and concerns with SIKA-West for further action.

CHALLENGES

- Due to insecurity in Shindand, all program activities were suspended between December 11th and December 24th.
- On December 28, 2014, three members of the Akhund Zadaha CDC and four daily laborers were kidnapped while working on a 2-kilometer Road Rehabilitation project. In addition, some construction machinery on the site was burned. SIKA-West has stopped 6 projects in and around Akhun Zadaha Village until this incident is resolved.
- Due to cold weather, all projects in Du Layna, Shahrak and Chaghcharan; eight projects in Kushk Rabat-e Sangi; one project in Kohsan; two projects in Guzara; and 12 projects in Pashtun Zarghun have been suspended until winter conditions improve.
- The M&E Department has been unable to confirm 16 project site GPS Points in Bala Boluk District due to security concerns.
- Due to security issues within Bala Boluk District, the SIKA-West district staff are working from the Farah Provincial Office until the situation improves.

DELIVERABLES

As per the SIKA-West contractual deliverables, the following documents were submitted to USAID:

- November 2014 Monthly Report
- Weekly Reports

U.S. Agency for International Development/Afghanistan
www.usaid.gov